

A Thankful Heart Gives Praise to God!

Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!

Open

This week we take a look at a topic the Bible seems to highlight over and over again: praising God out of a thankful heart. The truth is that no matter how difficult our life's journey has been, is, or might be, we can always count our blessings—which are also past, present, and future! Through praise, we recognize, appreciate, and express God's goodness. In our study for this week (coinciding as it does with Thanksgiving), we'll be looking at three passages from the Psalms as inspiration to take time to praise God for all that He is and has done. To get your group started, share about a time when a friend did something wonderful for you - what was it, and how did you thank him or her?

BIG THOUGHT

When we develop a habit of praising God from a thankful heart it becomes easier to see all of the ways He has blessed us and it gives us an opportunity to share about Him with others.

Dig

1. Although the Bible invites us to praise God, we often may not be sure how to go about it. The writers of the psalms, though, seem to be so overwhelmed by what God has done that they can't help themselves! Read Psalm 96:1-2. How does the author encourage people to praise God in v. 1-2? Why do you think the psalmist reminds us to find "new songs" to praise God? How often should we do this? (v. 2) How can routine sometimes make it difficult for us to remember to be thankful? Give examples if you can...
2. Now read v. 3-6. What else are we to do? (v. 3) What reasons does the psalmist give? (v. 4-6) Why is it important to let others know of our gratitude toward God? How does this principle align with Jesus' words in Matthew 10:32? Is this an easy thing for you to do? Share with the group.

3. Turn and read Psalm 145:1-2. Why is David grateful to God in v. 1? How does David's imagery make you feel - intimidated? Safe? Nervous? Something else? How does it lead David to respond? (v. 2) In what ways does our understanding of God's role and nature influence our thankfulness toward Him? Explain.
4. Now read v. 3-7. Whose role is it to make God's reputation known to the world? (v. 4) What does David say is his personal role? (v. 5, 6b) How can worshipping with others motivate us to personally share our gratitude toward God with the people around us?
5. Read Psalm 147:1-3. What does the psalmist note about praise that comes from a thankful heart? (v. 1) For what real-world activities does the author give praise to God? (v. 2-3) What are some things God has done for you that you can be thankful for today?
6. To finish, read v. 4-9, and list all the things in the natural world that give the psalmist reasons to praise God. How can an appreciation of God's display of power in nature motivate us toward thankful hearts (see Romans 1:20)?

Take it Further

Talk with God and thank Him for all that He has done for you - and be specific! Then make it a point to tell someone else this week of His goodness to you.

Daily Readings

Day 1: 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Day 2: Psalm 106:1

Day 3: Colossians 3:15

Day 4: Psalm 28:7

Day 5: Ephesians 5:20

Day 6: Psalm 136:1

Memory Verses: Psalm 96:2-3



1651 Dutch Fork Rd. Irmo, SC
www.gatewaybc.com